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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
11 December 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

India-Pakistan Situation Report
(As of 0600 EST)

Military Situation in the East

1. The Pakistani position in the east continues to deteriorate as Dacca comes under increasing pressure from the Indian drive from the east. After crossing the Meghna river about 40 miles northeast of Dacca, the Indians claim to have moved to within 36 miles of the city. In other parts of the east, the Indians apparently are concentrating on isolating and destroying small pockets of resistance. Pakistani forces still hold several large towns throughout the province, but most of these units have been cut off from retreat toward the capital.

2. The question of when Pakistani resistance in the east will end depends on whether the military command decides to stand and fight at Dacca or whether the Pakistanis decide to surrender in order to avoid additional casualties. From a strategic point of view, the longer they resist the longer they will delay the shifting of Indian forces to the western front. The Pakistanis still have at least a full division--perhaps 30,000 troops--in the Dacca area, and these forces may grow slightly with the arrival of retreating units able to make their way to the capital. The Pakistanis could make the taking of the capital a costly operation if they choose to fight to the end. If the determined Pakistani resistance in other areas of the province is any indication, this may well be the

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case. The morale of the remaining Pakistani forces in Dacca is the all important factor, and there are some signs that morale may be crumbling.

3. The Indian operation in the east, despite its overall success, has been costly in terms of casualties, and the Indians would prefer a Pakistani surrender of Dacca rather than having to take the city by force. On the other hand, the sooner India can take the capital the sooner it can shift its forces to the western front. The quick surrender of Dacca presumably would result in the end of significant Pakistani resistance in other areas of the east. According to the latest press reports, New Delhi wants to capture Dacca by December 15th, and there is not likely to be any Indian pause in attempting to achieve this goal.

4. The third UN attempt to evacuate personnel from Dacca was canceled today. Assistant UN Secretary General Henry reported that Pakistani Gen. Farman Ali prohibited the landing of evacuation flights coming from India on the grounds that the operation might serve as a screen for Indian parachute landings, and because the flights are coming from Indian soil.

5. The USIS library in Dacca was destroyed by a bomb explosion this morning. A man in civilian clothes and armed with an automatic weapon entered the building, ordered the staff to leave and placed a bomb near the building's entrance. Only one person, a passerby, was injured. A library employee indicated the bomber spoke in Urdu, the predominant language in West Pakistan. The US Consul General reports that no motive for the explosion has yet been determined.

Bangla Desh Plans for Civil Administration

6. The Calcutta Daily Statesman of 10 December carries an article on Indian and Bangla Desh plans for the establishment of civil authority in East Pakistan. The paper says the Indians have

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agreed to a Bangla Desh request to send a "substantial number of high civil and police officials" to assist the new government. Also, according to the paper, personnel from West Bengal State in India will go to Bangla Desh to repair bridges, roads, waterways, and powerhouses.

7. The newspaper says a draft plan for the quick return of the refugees has been prepared. Thus far not many refugees have returned, according to the US Consulate in Calcutta, which reports that sources in the Indian Rehabilitation Ministry say perhaps 10,000 have gone back, mainly to the area near Jessore.

8. The Consulate in Calcutta reports that a relief official claims Bangla Desh Foreign Secretary Alam and other high officials are fearful that militant groups will move into liberated towns quickly and seek vengeance. There are already press reports of "collaborators" being killed by the Mukti Bahini.

Military Situation in the West

9. Fighting on the western front has been highlighted by a renewed Pakistani offensive in the Chhamb area. The drive is aimed at cutting lines of communication north of Jammu and isolating western Kashmir from the rest of India. Indian spokesman describe the action as the heaviest fighting of the eight-day-old war, and additional forces have been rushed into the area. The Indians claim to have held so far, but both sides have taken heavy casualties and the results of the battle are still undetermined.

10. There is little reported change in the military situation in other areas of the western front. The Indian offensive east of Sialkot apparently has been halted by strengthened Pakistani resistance, and there are no reports of further gains in northern Kashmir or in the Sind region in the south. The Pakistani drives in

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the Punjab region have been held up while forces were diverted to the southern Kashmir front, [REDACTED]

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11. US officials in Karachi report that one of the two separate fires burning at the POL facility at the port has doubled in size, indicating that the fire has spread to other tanks. The US officials also report that last night--for the first time since the war began on 3 December--there were no air attacks on Karachi.

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Indian Reaction to Farman Ali's Proposal

13. Ambassador Bush has reported the reaction of the Indian permanent representative at the UN to the peace proposal put forth by Gen. Farman Ali yesterday and since withdrawn by the Pakistani Government. The Indian Permanent Representative said that President Yahya Khan should get in touch with Mujibur Rahman and questioned whether the Pakistani army would continue to fight in the west.

14. Before the withdrawal of the proposal, the UK High Commission in New Delhi estimated that the Indian Government reaction would be: a cease-fire in East Pakistan was acceptable; the Pakistan Army must surrender; the Government of Pakistan must instruct military forces, civilians

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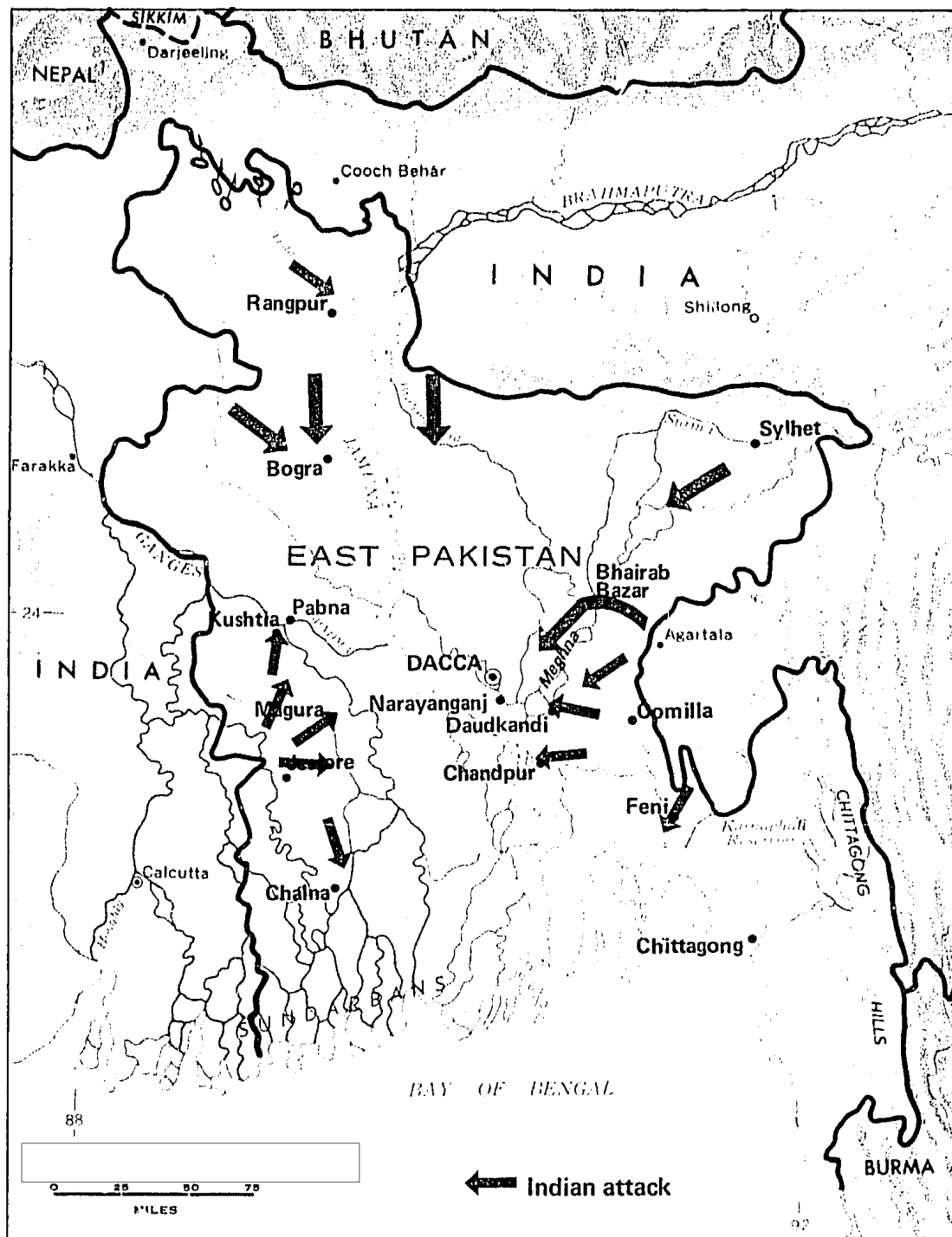
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and Biharis to place themselves at the disposal of the Indian Army for protection and repatriation; and there must be a transfer of power to the government of Bangla Desh.

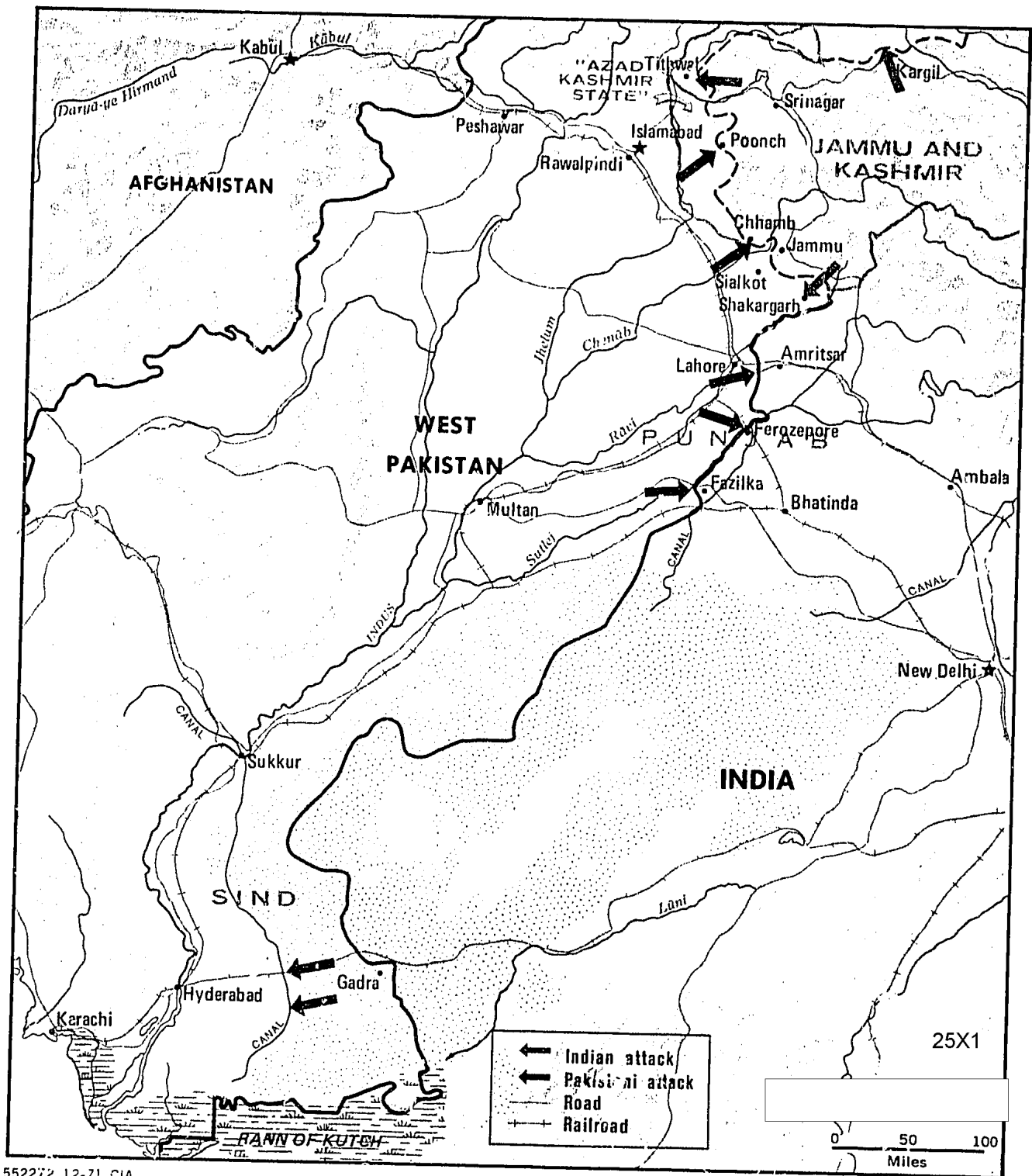
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